

CA 20N  
EV 43  
1995  
MOB  
C-2 June 7, 1996

## **BACKGROUNDER: OTHER PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES**

### **The Environment**

There are public policy goals associated with environmental protection that will require Government participation. These environmental objectives should be addressed as the Government moves forward with changes to Ontario's electricity system.

### **Aboriginal Issues**

The impact of Ontario's electricity system on First Nation communities warrants further study because of the complex issues involved. Any changes proposed must be sensitive to Aboriginal and treaty rights, and the energy needs of the remote communities.

### **Labour Issues**

Management, employees and bargaining agents for Ontario Hydro and the municipal electric utilities should be involved in the restructuring process from the outset.

### **Other Public Policy Issues**

Reform of the electricity industry will involve resolution of a number of public policy issues, including foreign and domestic ownership restrictions if assets are sold; reciprocity with neighbouring jurisdictions; strategies for the sale of assets; defining boundaries between transmission lines and distribution wires; rules on mergers within the electricity industry; water power rentals; Assessment Act implications, and how to deal with possible windfall municipal taxes.

-30-



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